REMARKS

1.   Claims 1-2, 4-8, 13-17 and 21 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,789,105 (McMillan). The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of these claims in view of the following comments distinguishing them over the McMillan.

Claim 1

Claim 1 relates to a system in which a server computer sends a document fie to a receiver/client computer, the receiver displays an image of the document described by the document file, and then returns verification data to the server indicating that it has successfully displayed the image. The Examiner cites McMillan as anticipating claim 1, but it does not appear that McMillan teaches step c of claim 1, providing software in the receiver/client computer that displays the image and then sending verification data to the server indicating that it has successfully displayed the image. Note two particular limitations of step c

1.   The receiver computer sends the verification data to the server computer, and
2.   The receiver computer sends the verification data after it has successfully displayed the image.

The fact that a server sends a document file to a receiver computer does not necessarily mean that the receiver has successfully displayed an image of the document. The invention gives the server verification that the receiver successively displayed a document. This is not taught or suggested in the cited prior art.

McMillan teaches a rather complex document delivery system including several servers that not only send emails and files to client computers, but also send emails, files and various other types of data transmissions to one another. To determine whether any of the data transmissions McMillan discusses anticipates step c of claim 1, it is important to determine which computer sends each data transmission, which computer receives it, what information each

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transmission conveys, and the point in the document delivery process at which the transmission is sent.

As shown in FIG. 17, McMillan's system includes several server computers 12-15 and each server computer 12-15 has a different responsibility. Server 12 sends out emails to client computers 25. Server computer 13 sends out content files to client computers 25 when the client computers open the emails. Server computer 14 provides "reporting information" on email and content distributions to server 15. Server 15 is a database server for storing information regarding customer requirements and specifications for email and content distributions. Though not shown in FIG. 17, there is also a "content creator" server that creates emails and content files (see col. 7, lines 4-10) and forwards them to other servers.

McMillan's system creates an email including a link to a content file. When an email server 12 sends the email to a client computer 25, and a client computer user opens the email, the email automatically downloads the content file from a content server 13. McMillan's servers 14 and 15 also log various events related to the process. FIG. 1 shows an overview of the process taught by McMillan. Content files (which could be document files) are prepared at step 200. At step 300 the emails are created and sent, and the content is sent to the content server. The content is sent to the receivers and tracked at step 400.

FIG. 3 illustrates the distribution step 300 as including a step 310 (detailed in FIG. 9) in which the content creates the emails and package the content in a form to be sent to the client computers 25. At step 320 (detailed in FIG. 10) the content creator (a server) sends the content files to the content server 13. At step 330 (detailed in FIG. 11) the Email server 12 sends out the emails to the client computers. The emails can be designed so that the content files (which are stored on server 13) are linked to the emails, so that the server 13 will send the content files to the client computer when the client computer user opens an email (col. 7, line 59 - co. 8, line 2) so that the client computer can display or play the content of the content files. At step 340 (detailed in FIG. 12) email server 12 tells the content server 13 that the emails have been sent so that the content server can prepare to respond to requests for the content

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files from the client computers. Server 12 also tells database server 15 that it has sent out the emails. Thus by the end of step 300 of FIG. 1, the emails have been created and sent to the client computers 25, the content has been created and sent to the content server 13, and the content server 13 and database server 15 have been notified that the emails have been sent.

FIG. 4 details the next step 400 of FIG. 4 (detailed in FIG. 13) wherein content files are sent and a reporting server 14 "logs all functions of the content server (13) and the e-mail server (12)" (col. 9-lines 15-19) and supplies the data it generates to reporting engine on the content serer 13, which generates reports of system activity based on that information.

At paragraph 3 (c) of the Office Action the Examiner suggests that FIG. 12 (step 340 of the process) shows that the client (receiver) computer 25 returns verification data to a server computer that it has successfully displayed a document image as recited in claim 1, step c.. However at step 340, one server computer (email server 12) tells other servers (content server 13 and database server 15) that it has sent emails to the client computers. See col. lines 49-52. Step 340 thus relates to one server reporting on its email sending activities to other servers and does not relate to a client/receiver computer reporting on its document display activities to a server computer. Thus claim 1, step c, does not read on McMillan's FIG. 12, step 340 because in step 340

1. A server rather than a receiver is sending the transmission,

2. The transmission indicates the server has sent email, and does not indicate a receiver has successfully displayed an image described by a document file, and

3. The transmission occurs before the content (document) file is sent to the receiver and provides no indication as to whether the receiver received either the email or the content file and displayed a document described either of those files.

At paragraph 3 (c) of the Office Action the Examiner suggests that McMillan (col. 8, line 49 to col. 8, line 51) teaches the client (receiver) computer 25 returns a verification to a server computer

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that it has successfully displayed a document image as recited in claim 1, step c.

The first part (col. 8, line 49 through col. 9, line 5) of the cited section describes FIG. 12 (step 340 of the process), which as discussed above, does not relate to the content of claim 1, step c. A second part (col. 9, lines 6-52) of the cited section of McMillan describes McMillan's FIG. 4, which depicts the "content tracking" step 400 of FIG. 1, detailed in FIGs. 13-16. In particular, col. 9, lines 15-52 of McMillan discuses McMillan's FIG. 13 detailing a substep 410 of the content tracking step 400. The Examiner apparently concludes that the applicant's claim 1, step c, occurs as a part of substep 410 of step 400. To determine whether this characterization of substep 410 is correct, it is necessary to review McMillan's discussion of each substep 411-418 of step 410 shown in FIG. 13 to determine whether in any of those steps a client/receiver computer sends an acknowledgement to any one of the server computers indicating that it has successfully displayed an image of a document described by a server computer.

At step 411, a server program is activated (col. 9, lines 15-26) which, at steps 412 and 413, logs ten pieces of information on the content server 13 and the database server 15. Those ten pieces of information, listed in col. 9, lines 20-26 as items (a) through (j), do not include an acknowledgment from a client computer 25 that it has successfully displayed an image of a document described by a content file. Thus claim 1, step (c) does not read on steps 411-413.

At step 414, "the reporting server 14 recognizes the starting of the servant engine", which is a program (a "servlet") running on the content server 13 for delivering content files to client computer when requested (col. 9, lines 29-37). Thus step 414 relates to a server logging the start of a program on a server and does not relate to logging an acknowledgment from a client computer 25 that it has successfully displayed an image of a document described by a content file it has received. Thus claim 1, step (c) does not read on step 414.

At steps 415 and 416, "the content serving and e-mailing processes are then continually monitored" and any anomalies are reported to a "watch" program. (col. 9, lines 42). Since steps 415

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and 416 relates to monitoring and logging activities of content and e-mail <u>servers</u> and do not relate to logging an acknowledgment from a <u>client</u> computer 25 that it has successfully displayed an image of a document described by a content file, claim 1, step (c) dos not read on steps 415 and 416..

At steps 417 and 418, a counter counts the number of requests for a content file and logs the information on database server 15. Since steps 417 and 418 relate to monitoring and logging the number of <u>requests for a content file</u> (which occur <u>before,</u> and not <u>after</u> a content file is received and displayed) and do not relate to logging an acknowledgment from a client computer 25 that it has successfully displayed an image of a document described by a content file, claim 1, step (c) dos not read on steps 417 and 418..

This while paragraph 3 (c) of the Office Action suggests that McMillan (FIG. 12 and col. 8, line 49 to col. 8, line 51) teaches the client (receiver) computer 25 returns a verification to a server computer that it has successfully displayed a document image as recited in claim 1, step c, a close review of the cited sections of McMillan shows that they do not.

At paragraph 23 of the Office Action, the Examiner cites McMillan's FIGs 6, 9, and 16, and col. 10, line 55 through col. 11, line 15 as also teaching the subject matter of claim 1, step (c).

FIG. 6 details step 220 of FIG. 2, which in turn details step 200 of FIG. 1. Thus FIG. 6 relates to a part of content preparation step 200 of McMillan's process that occurs <u>before</u> a content file is sent to a client computer. Since claim 1, step (c) relates to sending an acknowledgement that a document image is printed <u>after</u> a content/document file is sent to a client/receiver computer, the act recited in claim 1 step (c) cannot occur during step 220 of FIG. 6. The Examiner correctly observes that "servlets" (also called "servants") are created at step 220, and that the activities of the servants are then monitored. However the servlets/servants, which send the emails and content to the client computers, run on a server computer and not on the client computer. See col. 5, lines 7-20. The fact that activities of software running on servers may be monitored is irrelevant to claim 1 step (c) which relates to monitoring activities of software running on a <u>client</u>/receiver computer.

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FIG. 9 details step 310 of McMillan's FIG. 3 wherein) the content creator packages the content and emails in a form to be sent to the client computers 25. Clearly FIG. 9 cannot itself teach the content of claim 1, step (c) because it talks about something that occurs before content/document files are sent to the client/receiver computers. The Examiner correctly cites FIG. 9 as teaching the about servlets (col. 7, lines 37-50), but this sections says the servlets are received and run on server computers, not on the client/receiver computers. The fact that activities of these servlets may be subsequently monitored is irrelevant to claim 1, step (c) because claim 1, step (c) relates to information that software running on a client/receiver computer sends to a server indicating what the receiver has done, and not to information that a servlet running on a server computer sends to another server computer to indicate what it has done..

FIG. 16 and col. 10, line 55 though col. 1, line 15 detail step 440 of McMillan's FIG. 4 which is a part of the "track content" step 400 of FIG. 1. A session manager is started at step 441 when it receives notification from a server that an email is sent. At steps 442 and 443 the client computer sends a request for a content (document) file, which clearly occurs before an image of the document can be displayed. At step 444, the content server checks to determine whether the number of requests for the content file has exceeded a limit, and if not, sends the content to the client at step 445. At step 446 various information about the content transmission is logged. McMillan teaches this information includes bytes in, bytes out, and other information described at col. 9, lines 20-25. None of the logged information includes an acknowledgement from the client computer that it has successfully displayed an image of a document described by the content file as recited in claim 1, step c. All of the logged information relates to activities of servers, not clients.

A server checks a session timer at step 447. At steps 448 and 449, all of the requests for content files are logged on the content server, and at step 450 the database server is updated. Thus the process depicted in FIG. 15 does not include providing a client/receiver computer with software that sends an acknowledgement to a server when it has successfully displayed an image of a document

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described by a document/content file as recited in claim 1, step c.

Claim 1 is therefore patentable over McMillan

Claim 2.

Claim 2 depends on claim 1 and is patentable over McMillan for similar reasons. Claim 2 further recites a step d of storing log data on the server indicating when the receiver returned the verification data. As discussed above in connection with claim 1, McMillan does not teach that a client/receiver computer should send such verification data to a server, and therefore does not teach that a server can log when it was sent.

The Examiner cites McMillan's step 410 (FIG. 13) and col. 9, line 9-52 as teaching this, but as discussed above, none of the substeps 411-418 of step 410 relate to a client computer sending such acknowledgment data to a server or a server logging such acknowledgment data.

Claims 4 - 8

Claims 4 -8 are patentable over McMillan for reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with their parent claim 1.

Claim 7 requires that the receiver must sign on to the server using name and password in order to receive the document file. At paragraph 25 of the Office Action, the Examiner argues that since it is necessary to sign into an email account using name and password, and since McMillan teaches to retrieve email, then McMillan teaches the additional subject matter of claim 7. However, claim 7 requires the receiver to sign into the <u>document server,</u> not an email server. Claim 7 indicates that the <u>document server</u> has a log in system for all receiver/client computer. Claim 8 recites that the receiver must first sign on the server before the server transmits the document file to the receiver. If the email is the document file of interest, then McMillan sends out the document file (the email) without regard to whether the client computer has first signed on the document server.

Claim 13

Claim 13 depends on claim 1 and is patentable over McMillan for similar reasons. Claim 13 further recites that the receiver computer

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returns the verification data to the serer as an encoded network address.   The Examiner cites McMillan col. 9, lines 15-15 as teaching this, but as discussed above in connection with claim 1, that section of McMillan does not teach that software running on a client computer should send verification data to a server indicating that it has successfully displayed a document image. Also nothing in the cited section of McMillan discusses use of an encoded network address to convey such verification data as recited in claim 13.

At paragraph 26, the Examiner argues that an inherent feature of any HTTP GET request from a receiver computer to a server is an address which indicates where the server is to <u>route</u> a document referenced by the request, and that therefore an HTTP GET request verifies that the receiver has successfully <u>displayed</u> the document. This is not true, and the reason it isn't true is important to understanding the applicant's invention.   In order for a receiver computer to send an acknowledgement to a server computer that it has successfully displayed an image of a document described by a document file, it has to first display the document. If it doesn't first display the document, how can it acknowledge that it has done so? When a receiver computer sends an HTTP GET request to a document server, it only acknowledges that it <u>wants to acquire</u> a particular document file. When the server thereafter sends the document file to the receiver, it only knows that it <u>sent</u> the file to the receiver. It doesn't know whether the receiver actually received the file or displayed the document it represents.   Claim 13 recites that the receiver sends an network address to the server <u>after</u> it has successfully displayed the document, and that network address is encoded to verify that it has successfully displayed the document, not to indicate that the receiver wants to acquire the document file.   McMillan does not teach that. McMillan teaches a document server that only receives and responds to requests for document files, not to a document server that also receives specially encoded URLs indicating that a particular receiver has successfully displayed an image of a document described by a document file the server sent.

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Claims 14-17
        Claims 14-17 are patentable over McMillan for reasons similar to those expressed above in connection with claims 1 and 13.

Claim 21
        Claim 21 is patentable over McMillan for reasons similar to those expressed above in connection with claims 1, 2 and 13.

2.   **Claims 9, 10 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McMillan in view of U.S. Patent 6,209030 (Ohashi).**
The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of these claims in view of the following remarks distinguishing these claims over the cited references.

Claims 9 and 10
        The Examiner cites McMillan as teaching the subject matter of the parent claim 1 of claims 9 and 10, but as discussed above in connection with claim 1, McMillan does not teach the subject matter of claim 1. Claim 9 further recites that a publication request indicates a receiver computer is to be prevented from sending a print file it receives from a server to a printer. Nothing in either McMillan or Ohashi mentions or suggests anything about a server sending a publication request indicating that a particular receiver computer is to be prevented from sending a document file to a printer.
        The Examiner cites Ohashi (Abstract) as disclosing a mechanism by which a receiver computer is prevented from performing a <u>print screen</u> operation when displaying an image of document in a browser. The Examiner, at paragraph 27 of the Office Action indicates that the applicant has not provided any reason as to why preventing a receiver from carrying out a print screen operation when displaying an image of a document described by a document file would not also prevent the receiver from sending the document file to the printer. The reason for this is that a <u>print screen operation</u> and <u>sending a document file to a printer</u> are two different activities. Preventing a computer from doing one of those things does not prevent it from doing the other.
        In a print screen operation, an image of whatever is displayed on a screen is printed. Though a receiver computer may display all or a

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portion of a document described by a document file (such as an html
file) on a screen, a print screen command does not <u>send the document
file itself</u> to the printer. A print screen command creates a new
print file describing only what appears on the screen on a pixel-by-
pixel basis and then sends that new print file to the printer.
Assume, as contemplated by Ohashi, a browser running on a computer is
generating an image of a document such as a web page described by a
document file such as an HTML file. A computer generates a display of
the browser window and as much of the document as can fit in the
window as an array of pixels on a display monitor. In a print screen
operation, the computer creates another file that indicates in a
language the printer can understand, the position, intensity and color
of each pixel, and sends that file to the printer causing the printer
to as nearly as possible print an image of <u>what appears on the screen</u>.
What is printed will only be a part of a document if not all of the
document is currently displayed in the browser window, and will
include things other than the document that may also be displayed on
the screen, such as the window frame of the browser and any other
items that happen to be displayed on the screen. Note that when
carrying out a print screen operation while displaying a part or all
of a document described by a document file, the computer does not send
the document file itself to the printer and does not even consult the
document file. It only creates a new file based on the current state
of the display and sends that to the printer. Thus preventing a
computer from carrying out a print screen operation does not mean that
the computer is prevented from forwarding to a printer a document file
it has received from a server, when that document file happens to be
formatted as a print file.

Document delivery systems normally transmit documents files in a
form which cannot be directly understood by a printer such as a word
processing, a graphics or HTML file. Software in a receiving computer
must first convert the document file into a print file that the
printer can understand, and then send the print file to the printer.
The printer then prints an image of the entire document and nothing
else. In accordance with the applicant's document delivery method as
recited in claims 9 and 10, a sender transmits a print file via a
server to a receiver, and view software generates a display based on

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the print file. In accordance with claims 9 and 10, the document sender can provide a publication request indicating that the receiver computer is to be prevented from sending that print file to a printer.

Ohashi teaches to prevent the computer from carrying out a print screen operation when the computer is displaying an image that includes part or all of a document described by a document file, but nothing in Ohashi teaches to prevent a computer from sending the document file itself to the printer when the document file is in the form of a print file. Ohashi does not even contemplate that the document file might itself be a print file that could be sent to a printer. Note also the programming needed to prevent a computer from carrying out a print screen operation is very much different that the programming needed to prevent a computer from forwarding to a printer a particular print file it has received from a server.

Thus in response to paragraph 27 of the Office Action, the applicant has shown that preventing a computer from carrying out a print screen operation would not also prevent the computer from printing a print file it has received from a server. Claims 9 and 10 are therefore patentable over the combination of McMillan and Ohashi.

Claim 20

Claim 20 is patentable over McMillan for reasons cited above in connection with parent claims 14 and 15 and for reasons cited above in connection with claims 9 and 10, claim 20 further recites that the publish request indicates that the receiving computer is to be prevented from sending the document file to a printer.

4. Claims 11, 12, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McMillan in view of U.S. Patent 6,237,099 (Kurokawa). The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of these claims in view of the following comments distinguishing them over the combination of McMillan and Kurokawa.

Claims 11 and 12

Claims 11 and 12 depend on claim 1. The Examiner cites McMillan, but not Kurokawa, as disclosing the content of parent claim 1 and cites Kurokawa, but not McMillan as teaching the additional

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limitations of claims 11 and 12. Since, as discussed above, McMillan fails to teach the subject matter of claim 1 and since Kurokawa also fails to disclose the subject matter of claim 1, claims 11 and 12 are patentable over the combination of McMillan and Kurokawa.

Claims 18 and 19
    Claims 18 and 19 depend on claims 14 and 15. The Examiner cites McMillan, but not Kurokawa, as disclosing the content of parent claims 14 and 15 and cites Kurokawa but not McMillan as teaching the additional limitations of claims 18 and 19. Since, as discussed above in connection with claims 14 and 15, McMillan fails to teach the subject matter of claims 14.and 15, and since Kurokawa also fails to disclose the subject matter of claims 14 and 15, claims 18 and 19 are patentable over the combination of McMillan and Kurokawa.

5. **Claims 3 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McMillan in view of U.S. Patent 6,243,722 (Day). The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of these claims in view of the following comments distinguishing them over the combination of McMillan and Day.**

Claim 3
    Claim 3 depends on claim 1. The Examiner cites McMillan, but not Day, as disclosing the content of parent claim 1 and cites Day but not McMillan as teaching the additional limitations of claim 3. Since as discussed above in connection with claim 1, McMillan does not teach the subject matter of claim 1, and since Day also fails to disclose the subject matter of claim 1, claim 3 is patentable over the combination of McMillan and Day.
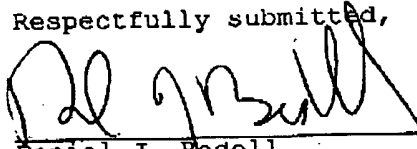
Claim 22
    Claim 22 depends on claim 14. The Examiner cites McMillan, but not Day, as disclosing the content of parent claim 14 and cites Day but not as teaching the additional limitations of claim 22. Since, as discussed above in connection with claim 14, McMillan does not teach the subject matter of claim 14, and since Day also fails to disclose the subject matter of claim 1, 3 is patentable over the combination of

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McMillan and Day.

6. The prior art cited but not relied upon has been reviewed and does not appear to disclose or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed.

7. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks it is believed the application is in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.
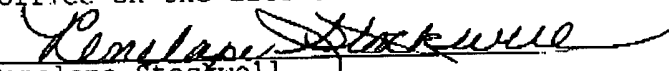
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